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LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

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From the Executive Director

Summer is in full stride as this issue of the VDFP Logbook comes to you. With the change to a hotter climate and many people taking vacations, I want to encourage everyone to be safe in your emergency response and in your personal travels. Please be aware of heat stress potential as you work at incidents during the hot and humid summer season.

It is my pleasure to bring great news to the Virginia Fire Service as we enter a new fiscal year at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. We begin this fiscal year as a strong agency with an improved financial forecast. The Fire Programs Fund (FPF) transfer that we receive each June has increased by 6.5% (\$1.6 million) from FY 2006 to FY 2007. This increase continues to show the upward trend in steady growth of the FPF over the last several years. The amount for FY 2007 is \$25.9 million. This is before expending any code-required obligations that have to occur before disbursements are made to our 324 independent cities, counties, and towns of the Commonwealth.

It is important to note that in FY 2007, **every** one of those localities will realize at least a 4.5% increase in their Aid-to-Localities (ATL) funding. This has not happened in several years and it was made possible because of the growth in the overall Fire Programs Fund as previously mentioned, and the recent action by the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) at their June 2-3, 2006 meetings to increase ATL minimums for towns from \$6,000 to \$8,000 and cities and counties from \$12,000 to \$16,000. This represents a **net** increase of 25% for recipients of the minimum ATL funding amounts. In FY 2006, 48% of those 324 Virginia localities received the minimum allocations. The ability for the VFSB to raise ATL minimum allocation amounts was made possible by the approval of SB 498 during this past session of the Virginia General Assembly. The ATL increases will become effective July 1, 2006 beginning with FY2007 allocations.

While the news of increased fire service funding for all localities in FY 2007 is refreshing, we should not forget that our last Virginia Fire Service Needs Assessment was a very telling document that pointed out over \$100 million of clearly identified fire services needs in our Commonwealth.

In June, VDFP mailed out the annual packages with Aid-to-Localities annual report forms, Training Mini-Grant applications, and Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System grant applications. As a reminder, these packages are sent to the government administrator of each locality, not to the fire department address. Please communicate with your local administrator to coordinate this process for your locality.

On another note, our agency has recently experienced a few positions being vacated for other job opportunities. Our dedicated staff is stepping up in many ways to ensure little or no disruption in our service delivery. We plan to have all of the vacancies filled by August. VDFP remains a strong agency and we will continue to move forward with a new focus for this fiscal year that continues to provide great fire service at the highest level possible.

For more information on the grants and local aid information or other exciting fire service programs, please check out our new and improved website at www.vafire.com and be sure to bookmark it on your computer for frequent visits.

Be Safe,

Aubrey W. "Buddy" Hyde, Jr.

VDFP conducts Live Fire training

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs hosted a Live-Fire training demonstration on Tuesday, May 23 at the Henrico Division of Fire Training Drill Center in Glen Allen, VA. The day long event included a live-fire evolution, rappelling demonstration and a Heavy and Technical Rescue (HTR) exhibit. Several state officials, as well as many staff members from VDFP, participated in the training which was conducted by firefighters from departments in Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover.

The day started with fit testing for self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). One-by-one, individuals participating in the live-burn donned SCBA and underwent a test to ensure they had a proper seal.

Once fit testing was completed, Aubrey "Buddy" Hyde, Jr., Executive Director of VDFP, welcomed everyone to the day's training and led the assembled group through introductions. This was followed by a briefing of the schedule of events for the day.

Next up it was time for the participants to put on full turnout gear as they readied themselves to enter the burn building. By the time they were finished every inch of their bodies were covered to protect them from the conditions they would be experiencing once they were inside. Each individual participating in the live-burn was partnered with an experienced firefighter who accompanied them inside and led them through the building along a hose line.

The first 10-15 minutes inside were spent experiencing what conditions can be like inside a burning building. Even with the full turnout gear the intensity of the heat could be felt and visibility became increasingly impaired. It did not take long to gain a heightened appreciation for what firefighters experience on a daily basis as they risk their lives to save others.

"My father was a firefighter when I was growing up, but I never really completely understood what he did," commented Mark Buff, Communications and Public Affairs Coordinator for VDFP. "Now I do and I only wish he were still with us today so I could tell him how proud I am of him."

At the conclusion of the live-burn portion of the demonstration, a light lunch was served and the participants were given a well deserved break and time to re-hydrate. Then it was time to give rappelling a try.

The Division 1 Heavy Technical Rescue team, consisting of members from Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover Counties, gave a rappelling demonstration and safety briefing after which individuals were given the opportunity to rappel from the top of the eight story training tower. Approximately twelve of the participants in the day's events decided to give it a try, and from the smiles on their faces as their feet touched the ground to the cheers of onlookers, everyone who did was glad they had.

By mid-afternoon the event was concluded and it was time to go back, tired but happy, to the world of the non-firefighter. Back, though, with the knowledge of how it feels to be in a burning building, how it feels to rappel from a tall building, and most importantly, a little bit of how it feels to be a firefighter.



It's in the bag



Fit to a T



Last one down's a rotten egg



Gearing up



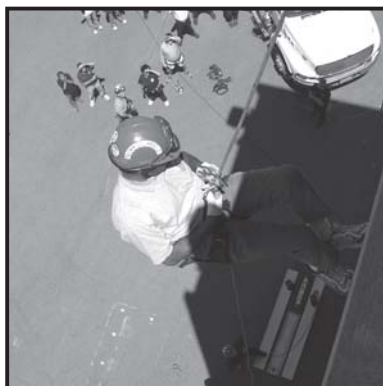
Burn, baby, burn



Anything you can do, I can do better



Afterburners



No fear



Memorial Service held to honor Virginia's Fallen Firefighters

Governor Kaine in attendance

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA: – The Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service was held Saturday, June 3, 2006 at the Richmond Raceway Complex. An audience of over 300, including family members of the deceased, state and local officials, and fire and emergency services personnel from throughout the Commonwealth were present for the ceremony honoring the memory of three firefighters.

The three firefighters recognized at this year's service were Captain Robert Eades of Bristol Fire Department, Lieutenant James Clarke of Henrico County Division of Fire and Fire Chief Max Willard of Oakwood Volunteer Fire Department.

"Words cannot commemorate or dedicate the sacrifice of these three firefighters because their actions were already the ultimate dedication," said Governor Timothy M. Kaine in his remarks. "They are heroes."

Governor Kaine also referred to the lesson that, 'greater love hath no man than this, that he would lay down his life for a friend.' "But think about this," added Kaine. "There is a greater love. Laying down your life for someone you don't even know. And that is what we ask our safety professionals to do everyday; to be willing to lay down their life, not just for a friend, not just for someone they might know, but for people that they don't know at all."

The hour long ceremony included a Virginia Fire Services Honor Guard Procession, a musical selection performed by St. Bridget's School Intermediate Choir and St. Michael's Catholic Church Cherub and Archangel Choirs, the traditional 'Tolling of the Bell' ceremony, and a formal presentation of the state flag by Governor Kaine to the families of the fallen firefighters.

Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was also in attendance and addressed the audience. "No cause is as noble as saving another's life. No sacrifice is greater than giving your own to do that," Siarnicki observed.

This year's service was the ninth consecutive year that fallen firefighters have been officially honored and in addition to recognizing recently fallen firefighters the annual memorial service honors the memory of the more than 80 Virginia firefighters who have died over the past twenty years.

"When a firefighter dies in the line of duty all our lives are changed forever," said Siarnicki.

Virginia Fire Services Board members say goodbye

The Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) held their bi-monthly meeting on Saturday, June 3 at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs headquarters in Glen Allen, VA.

In addition to the regular business, this meeting also had special significance for three members of the Board as it marked the conclusion of their second term.



Thomas Fuqua
Floyd Greene, Jr.
Buddy Hyde

The VFSB is created within the Virginia Department of Fire Programs pursuant to § 9-153.1 of the Code of Virginia. The Board is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor. Board members may serve two four-year terms.

The three members of the Board who concluded their second term of service were:



Thomas Fuqua
Richard Steinberg
Buddy Hyde

Lora J. Sharkey, Chairman, representing the Virginia Professional Firefighters Association.

Richard Steinberg, representing the Virginia Fire Services Council.

Floyd E. Greene, Jr., representing the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association



Thomas Fuqua
Lora Sharkey
Buddy Hyde

In conjunction with the departure of Lora Sharkey, who was serving as Chairman of the VFSB, the Board voted to elect Thomas Fuqua as the new Chairman and Dennis Mitchell as Vice Chairman for June 2006 through June 2007.

VDFP FYI

SAFETY/TRAINING TIP

End of Brushfire Season

Well, we have made it through the brush firefighting season and hopefully with no major problems. It's time to now check the four wheel drive units to be sure that all of those backwoods excursions did not create any power train problems (transmission, rear end, suspension system, tires, shocks etc). In addition, flushing your booster tank and pump may prevent any damage resulting from previous drafting operations.

Don't forget to examine, clean, and service any hand tools used during the brush season including your rakes, shovels, flappers, chainsaws, and mechanical air blowers. Let's be sure that they operate properly and safely for the next excursion in the woods.

PUBLIC EDUCATION TIP

Fireworks Safety

Virginia Fireworks Law

CONSUMER FIREWORKS

Specifically Permitted

Sparklers, fountains, pharaoh's serpents, pinwheels, and whirligigs.

Specifically Prohibited

Firecrackers, skyrockets, torpedoes, and other fireworks which explode, travel laterally, rise into the air, or fire projectiles into the air.

Some Virginia localities prohibit fireworks altogether, including sparklers – to find out contact your local fire department.

DISPLAY FIREWORKS

Display Permit

Apply to local authorities at least 15 days before display date.

Insurance

Bond adequate to pay for all damages to persons or property is required.

Operator

No license specifically required in state law.

Dave Tesh to lead R&R network

David Tesh, employed by Chesterfield Fire and Emergency Medical Services, has stepped forward to lead Virginia's Recruitment and Retention Network. Tesh, an Emergency Services veteran (a Life Member with the Forest View Volunteer Rescue Squad), has been Chesterfield County's Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Coordinator for five years.

Virginia's Recruitment and Retention Network is a statewide association of EMS and Fire personnel (career and volunteer) with clear focus on manpower, staffing, retention and recruitment issues. The group meets every other month and exercises information exchange to create ideas and approaches to building numbers within emergency services agencies.

Tesh, an active participant with the network, has launched and managed effective / productive programs to benefit Chesterfield's Rescue Squad and Fire Company personnel – while securing new members. As Coordinator of the R & R Network, Tesh will oversee arrangements and communicate announcements for the group's meetings. The Coordinator also acts as a "moderator" and fields ideas for programs and presentations at the meetings.

The Network regularly draws 20 to 25 associates to their meetings. Various presentations (radio recruitment, television advertising, marketing and public relations, trade show or sales training, etcetera) have complimented their roundtable discussions and introduced very helpful ideas to those attending.

"Having Dave take over will open the door for new leadership to inspire ideas as we consider reaching any next level" said Cris Leonard, the groups former coordinator. "David's organizational skills, open mindedness and energy level will be a real asset to the group."

The groups August '06 meeting will be in Charlottesville scheduled as a peripheral activity of the third annual VCOS Summit. Persons interested are welcome to attend the Friday (08 / 25) lunch meeting. Please confirm your plans to attend with one of the group members listed below.

About the Network:

Our Network has proven to be a powerful way to build professional relationships, actively foster contacts and disseminate valuable information to promote recruitment/retention, reduce staffing challenges and enhance membership efforts in our statewide Emergency Services community.

Captain Jason Nauman, Albemarle County Department Of Fire Rescue

I "joined" the VA R&R Network late in 2005 and left my first meeting feeling rejuvenated. I can not recall ever attending a local, much less a state wide volunteer / career EMS and Fire meeting where everyone shared, no strings attached, such fantastic R-R ideas.

Bobby Hill, Recruitment-Retention Chair, Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad

The R & R Network is based on the simple concept of sharing information. The group creates a great forum for volunteer and career Fire and EMS personnel to exchange R & R ideas. Their unofficial motto could be "Thou shall not recreate a good idea to recruit and retain." By participating, the Office of EMS learns how localities implement new strategies to maintain a viable EMS workforce within their communities.

Rohn Brown, Technical Assistance Coordinator, Office of EMS, Virginia Department of Health

Questions? For additional information please contact David Tesh, teshd@chesterfield.gov , 804-748-1629 or Cris Leonard, jcleonard@co.hanover.va.us , 804-365-4843



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

2006 Fire Instructor College
July 7-9, 2006
Roanoke College, Salem, VA

Command & Control of Fire Department Operations
at Target Hazards
July 17-22, 2006
Virginia Beach Fire Dept., Virginia Beach, VA

Command & General Staff Functions in the ICS
July 23-28, 2006
Bedford, VA

August

Virginia Fire Services Board Meeting
August 11-12, 2006
Hampton, VA

2006 Virginia Weekend
August 19-20, 2006
National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD

3rd Annual Virginia Public Safety Summit
August 26-27, 2006
Charlottesville, VA

Fighting Fires with Facts

In 2005, 9.8 million incidents were reported in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Virginia ranked #2 in the number of reported incidents¹. The top ten reporting states were: Florida, Virginia, Illinois, Washington, Ohio, New York, North Carolina, Michigan, Indiana, and Maryland.

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/status/incident_by_state.shtm

¹ As of April 2, 2006